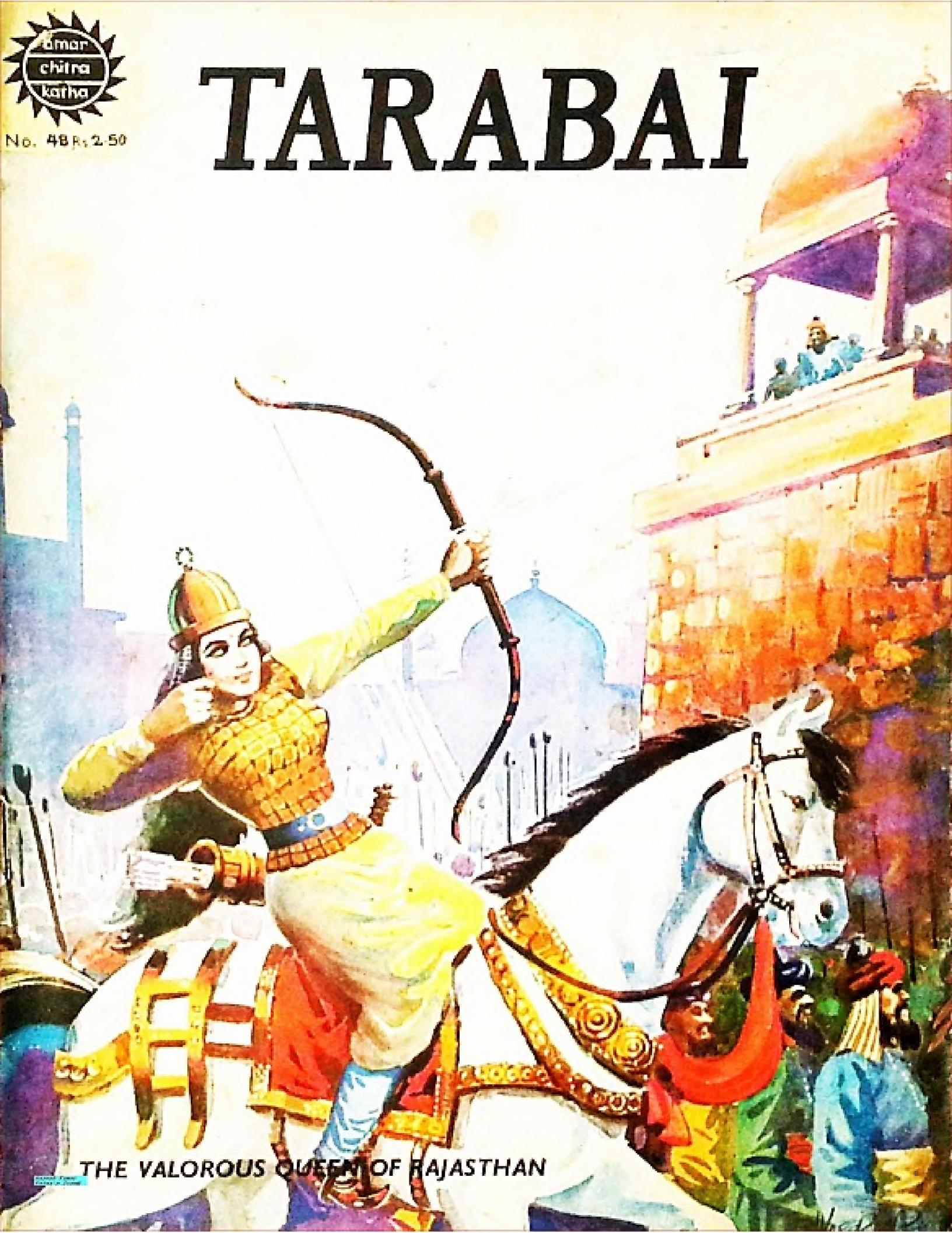




No. 48 Rs. 2.50

# TARABAI



THE VALOROUS QUEEN OF RAJASTHAN



The history of Rajasthan is written in the heroic deeds of her men and women. Traditional ballads as well as modern text-books have made some of them well-known. Many however have remained little-known though they were no less valourous; TARABAI for instance.

A Chauhan by birth, she proved that a daughter could be as valiant as a son. She was instrumental in restoring her father's usurped estates to him. She fought by her husband as he rode forth to quell a treacherous attack on her father-in-law, Rana Raimal.

Her husband, Prithiviraj, was no less a personality. He was the younger brother of the famous Rana Sanga. Had his life not been treacherously shortened by his brother-in-law, he would have enjoyed today as important a place as is accorded to Rana Sanga in Rajput history.

The story, as narrated in this book, is based on Col. Tod's "Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan". There is divergence of opinion however, regarding the facts of the story.

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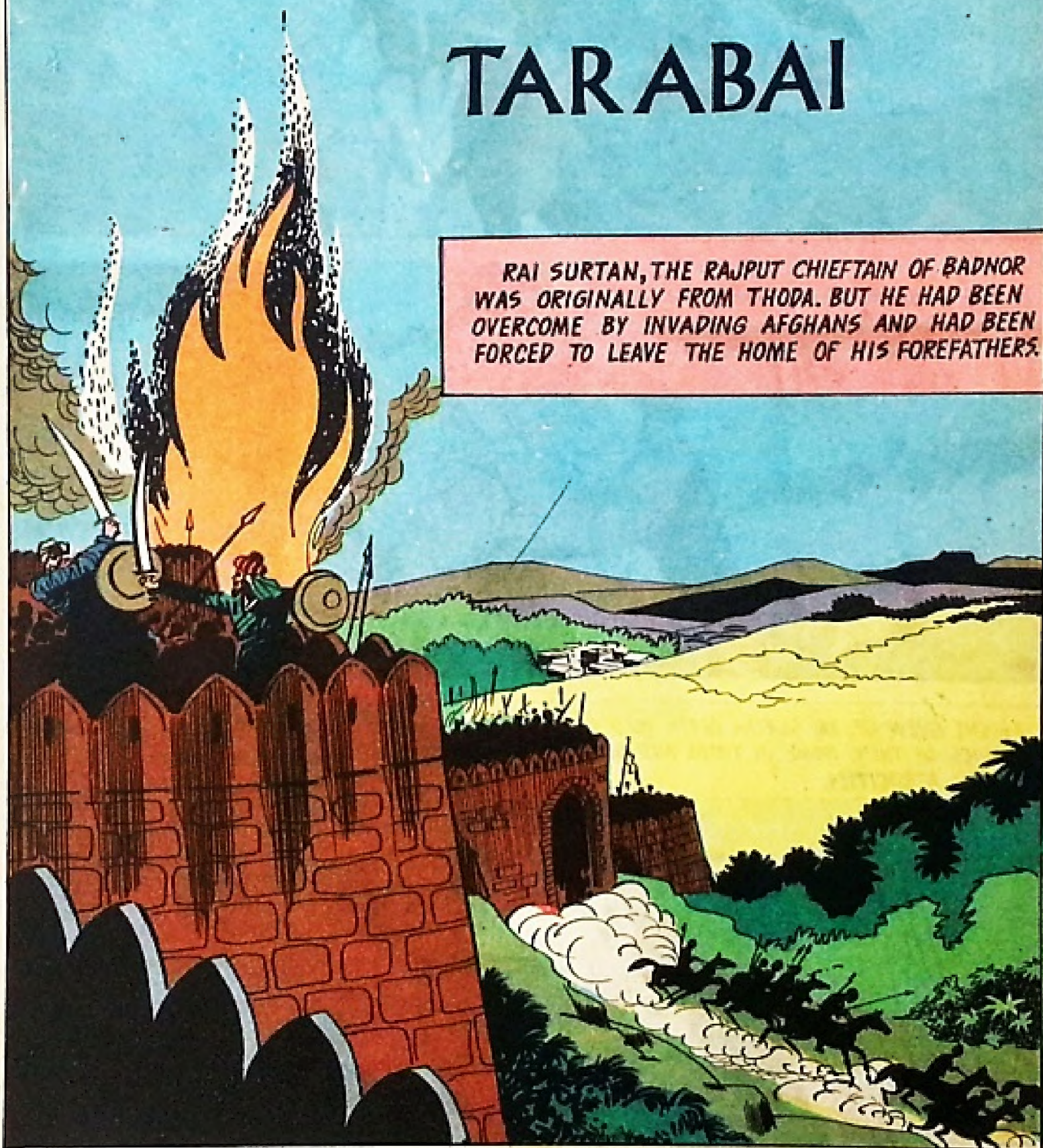
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# TARABAI

RAI SURTAN, THE RAJPUT CHIEFTAIN OF BADNOR WAS ORIGINALLY FROM THODA. BUT HE HAD BEEN OVERCOME BY INVADING AFGHANS AND HAD BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THE HOME OF HIS FOREFATHERS.





HE HAD MOVED TO BADNOR,  
AT THE FOOT OF THE  
ARAVALLI RANGE, WITHIN  
THE BORDERS OF MEWAR.



IT WAS AT BADNOR THAT TARABAI WAS BORN.

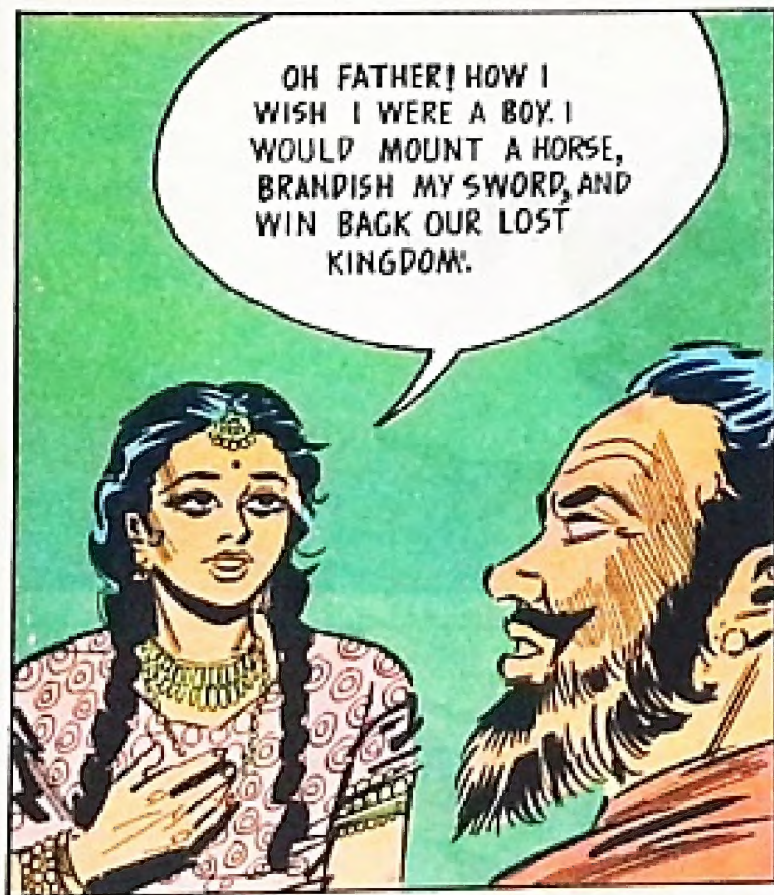


AS SHE GREW UP, RAI SURTAN OFTEN TOLD HER  
STORIES OF THEIR HOME IN THODA AND OF THE  
AFGHAN ATROCITIES.

I HAVE TRIED SEVERAL  
TIMES TO WIN THODA  
BACK FROM THE AFGHANS  
BUT HAVE FAILED.









EVEN WHILE RIDING AT FULL SPEED...



... SHE COULD SHOOT STRAIGHT AT HER TARGET.

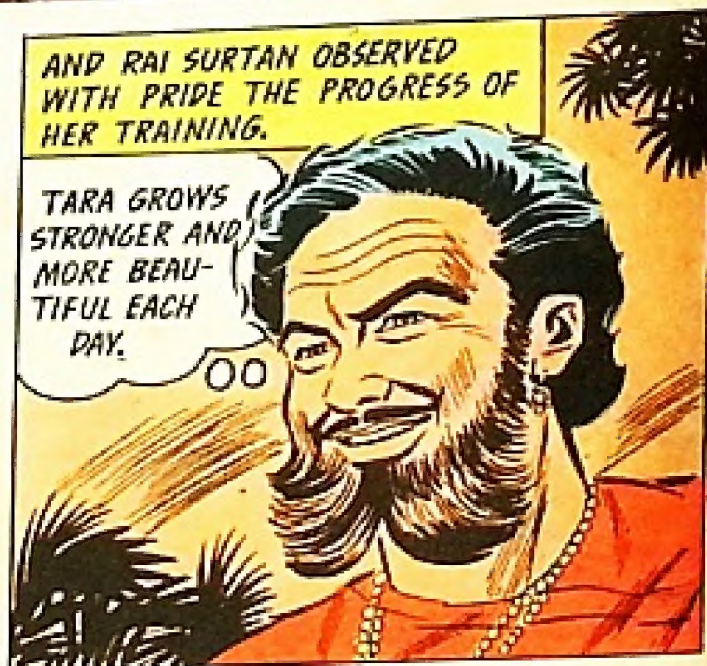


THE MOST STALWART STALLIONS WERE LIKE LAMBS UNDER HER.



AND RAI SURTAN OBSERVED WITH PRIDE THE PROGRESS OF HER TRAINING.

TARA GROWS STRONGER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY.





HER TRAINING IN  
HOUSEHOLD DUTIES  
WAS NOT NEGLECTED  
EITHER.



SOON TARABAI WAS EASILY THE MOST  
ACCOMPLISHED GIRL IN ALL MEWAR.

TARA IS NOW STRONG  
ENOUGH TO STAND THE  
TRIALS OF CAMPAIGN.  
I WILL MAKE ONE  
MORE ATTEMPT ON  
THODA.



HE CALLED  
TARABAI TO HIM.

TARA, PREPARE FOR  
BATTLE. WE SHALL MARCH  
INTO THODA.

I CAN HARDLY WAIT  
TO LEAVE, FATHER.







AT THODA RAI SURTAN, TARABAI  
AND THEIR TROOPS FOUGHT  
WELL...



...BUT THEY WERE GREATLY  
OUTNUMBERED.





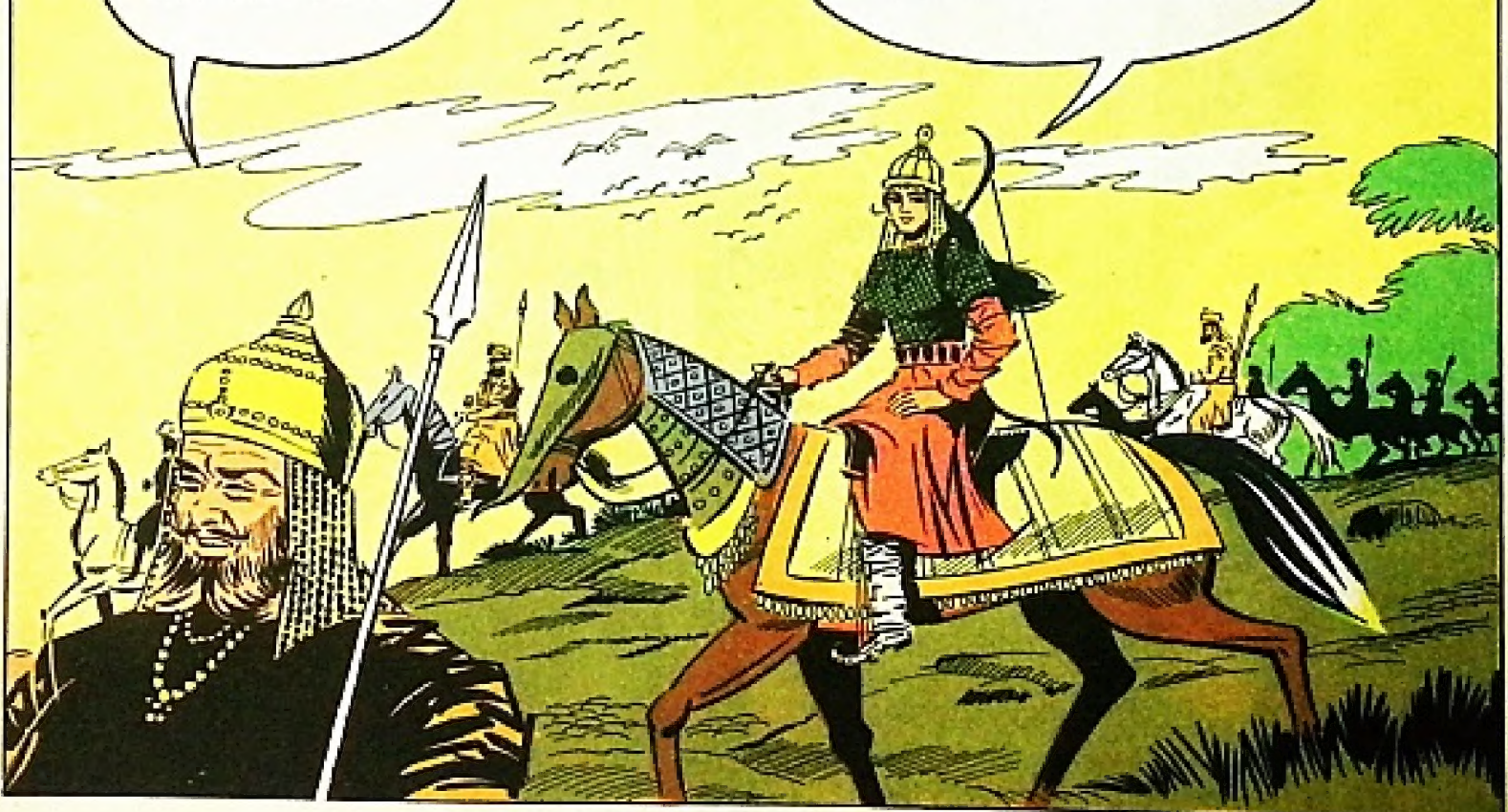
THIS ATTEMPT TOO WAS A FAILURE.



AS THE FATHER AND DAUGHTER RODE BACK TO BADNOR—

WE HAVE FAILED,  
BUT WE MUST  
NOT LOSE HOPE.

NO! NEVER! INSTEAD  
LET US GATHER FRESH TROOPS  
AND INTENSIFY THE  
TRAINING OF OUR OLD HANDS.





WHILE RAI SURTAN BUSIED HIMSELF IN RECRUITING MORE TROOPS, TARABAI TRAINED THE SOLDIERS.



MEANWHILE THE FAME OF TARABAI'S BEAUTY AND TALENTS REACHED MEWAR.

HAVE YOU HEARD? TARABAI, RAI SURTAN'S DAUGHTER HAS PERSONALLY UNDERTAKEN THE TRAINING OF HIS CAVALRY-MEN.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW ONE SO FAIR COULD YET BE SO STRONG!

JAIMAL, THE THIRD SON OF THE RANA OF MEWAR, DECIDED TO WIN HER FOR HIMSELF.

I SHALL GO TO BADNOR AND MAKE TARABAI MY OWN.



AT BADNOR—

JAIMAL OF MEWAR?  
WHAT MAY YOU  
WANT OF US?

I HAVE COME TO WIN  
THE HAND OF THE FAIR  
TARABAI.

BEFORE RAI SURTAN COULD SPEAK—

REDEEM THE CITY OF  
THODA AND I SHALL  
BE YOURS.

THE CONDITION  
SHALL BE FULFILLED  
WITH EASE, FAIR  
PRINCESS.

BUT JAIMAL HAD NO INTENTION OF  
DOING SO IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

SHE IS EVEN  
MORE BEAUTIFUL  
THAN I IMAGINED.  
I COULD PASS MY  
DAYS JUST FEAST-  
ING MY EYES  
ON HER.



HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO RALLY  
HIS TROOPS. INSTEAD—

THODA CAN WAIT. I WILL  
LINGER ON AT RAI  
SURTAN'S. I'LL MAKE  
TARABAI MINE  
BEFORE I REDEEM  
THODA.

UNFORTUNATELY HIS INTENTIONS  
WERE NOT HONOURABLE. ONE DAY—

NO, SIR, YOU MUST  
NOT PROCEED FURTHER.  
THOSE ARE MY  
MISTRESS'S APARTMENTS.

LET ME GO,  
I SAY.

HELP!  
HELP!

RAI SURTAN, HEARING THE MAID  
SCREAM, RUSHED TO THE SPOT.

WH-WHAT'S  
THE MATTER?  
WHY DID YOU  
SCREAM?

MASTER... THE  
DOOR... MY  
MISTRESS...  
JAIMAL.



RAI SURTAN WAS BLIND WITH RAGE.



HE'S DEAD!



THE NEWS OF JAIMAL'S DEATH SOON REACHED THE EARS OF THE RANA.



BUT THE RANA WAS A NOBLE MAN.

NO! JAIMAL DARED TO INSULT HIS HOST; ENDANGER THE HONOUR OF HIS DAUGHTER. THAT TOO, WHEN RAI SURTAN IS ALREADY IN DISTRESS. HE DESERVED TO DIE!





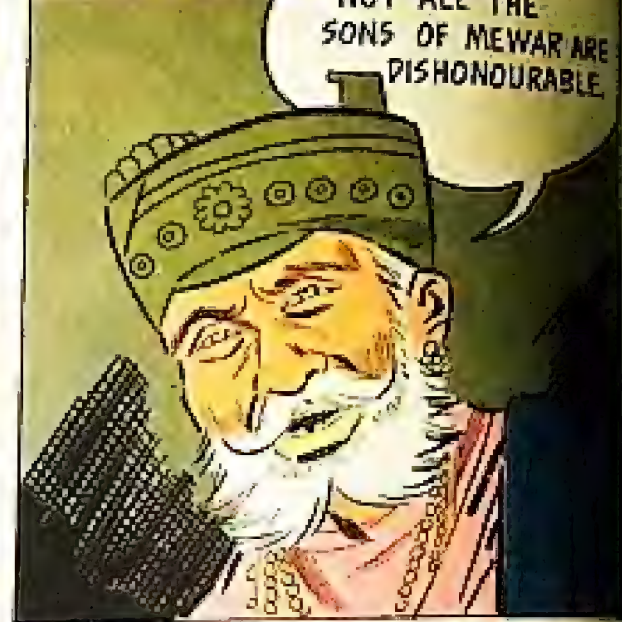
PRITHVIRAJ, THE RANA'S SECOND SON, TURNED TO THE RANA.

LET ME HELP THE DISTRESSED FATHER AND WIN THE FAIR TARABAI.



THE RANA WAS OVERJOYED.

GO, MY SON! PROVE THAT NOT ALL THE SONS OF MEWAR ARE DISHONOURABLE.



AT BADNOR, TARABAI LAID THE SAME CONDITION BEFORE PRITHVIRAJ.

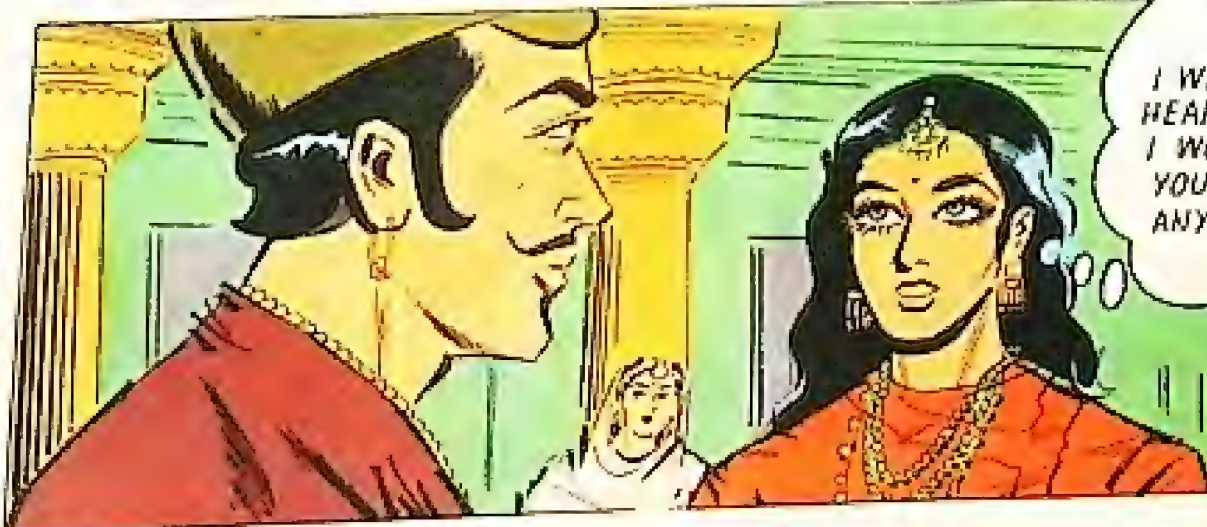
REDEEM THODA AND I AM YOURS.



I WILL RESTORE THODA TO YOUR FATHER OR I AM NO TRUE RAJPUT.



I WISH WITH ALL MY HEART THAT YOU DO. I WOULD RATHER BE YOUR BRIDE THAN ANYONE ELSE'S.





PRITHVIRAJ  
WASTED NO TIME  
IN RALLYING  
AROUND HIM  
FIVE HUNDRED  
OF HIS BEST  
CAVALRY-MEN.

I PLAN TO  
ATTACK THODA  
AT THE TIME  
OF THE MUHARRAM  
FESTIVAL.

WHY THEN?

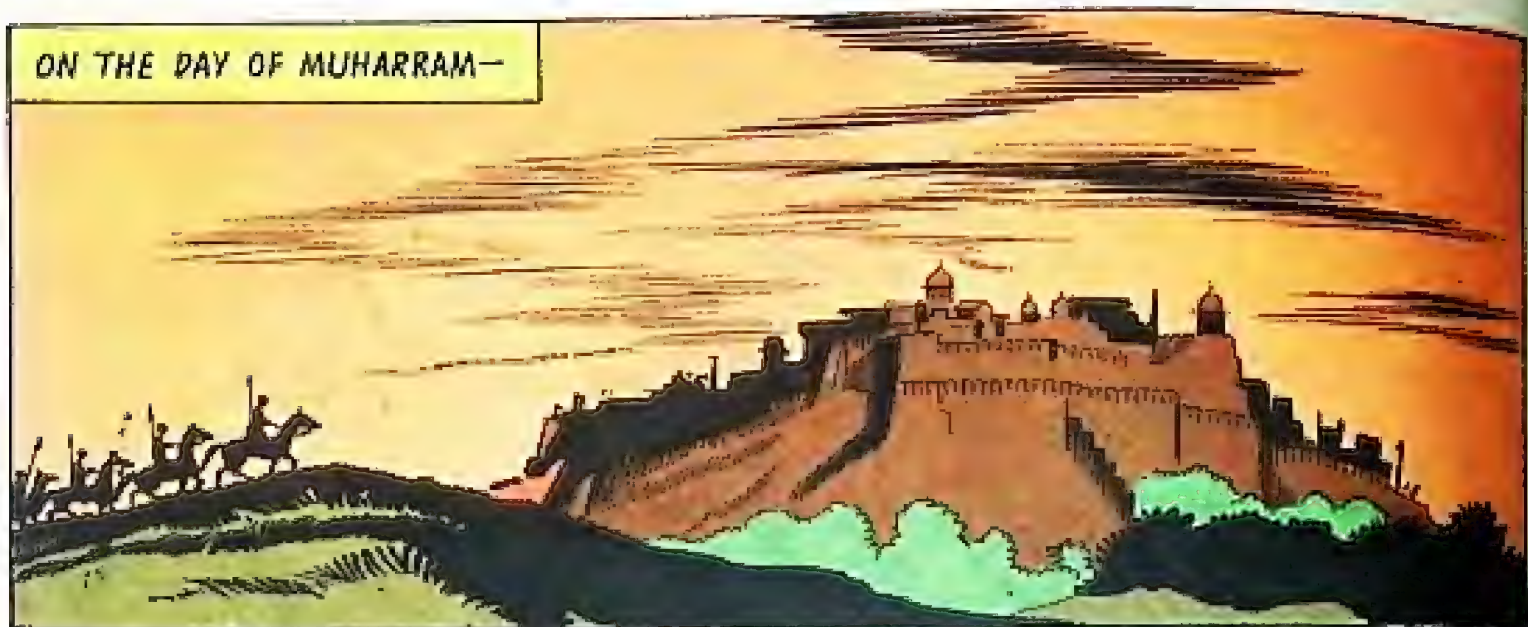
THE AFGHANS WILL  
BE ENGROSSED IN THE  
FESTIVITIES. THEY WILL BE  
OFF THEIR GUARD.

COME IF YOU MUST,  
FAIR PRINCESS.  
THOUGH I'D RATHER  
YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE  
WERE NOT ENDANGERED.

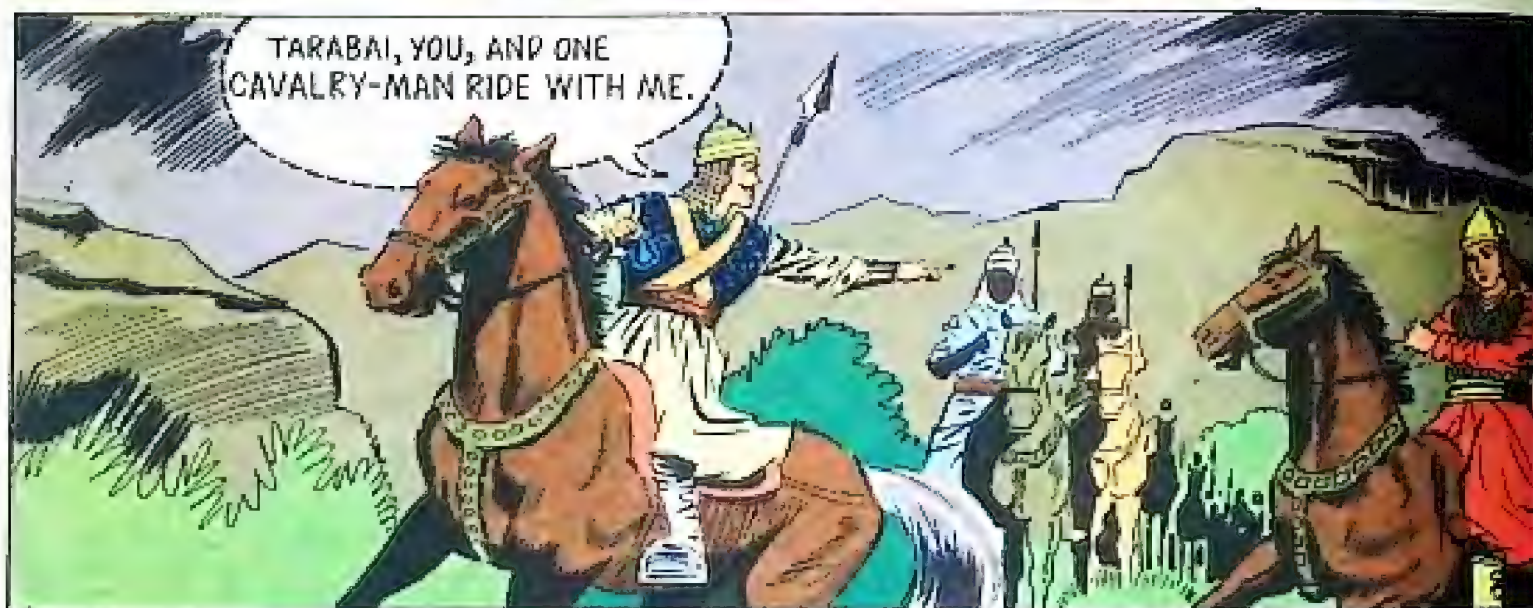
I'LL COME  
WITH YOU.



ON THE DAY OF MUHARRAM—

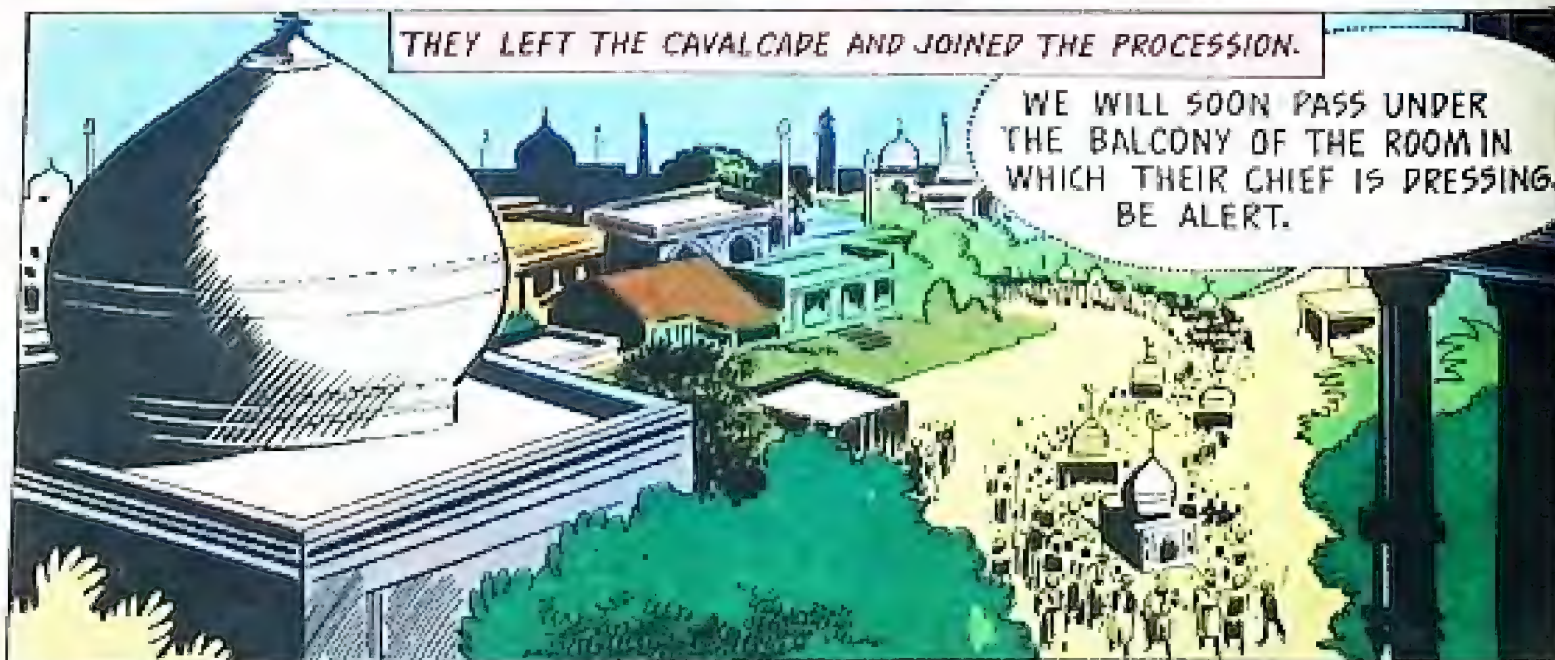


TARABAI, YOU, AND ONE  
CAVALRY-MAN RIDE WITH ME.



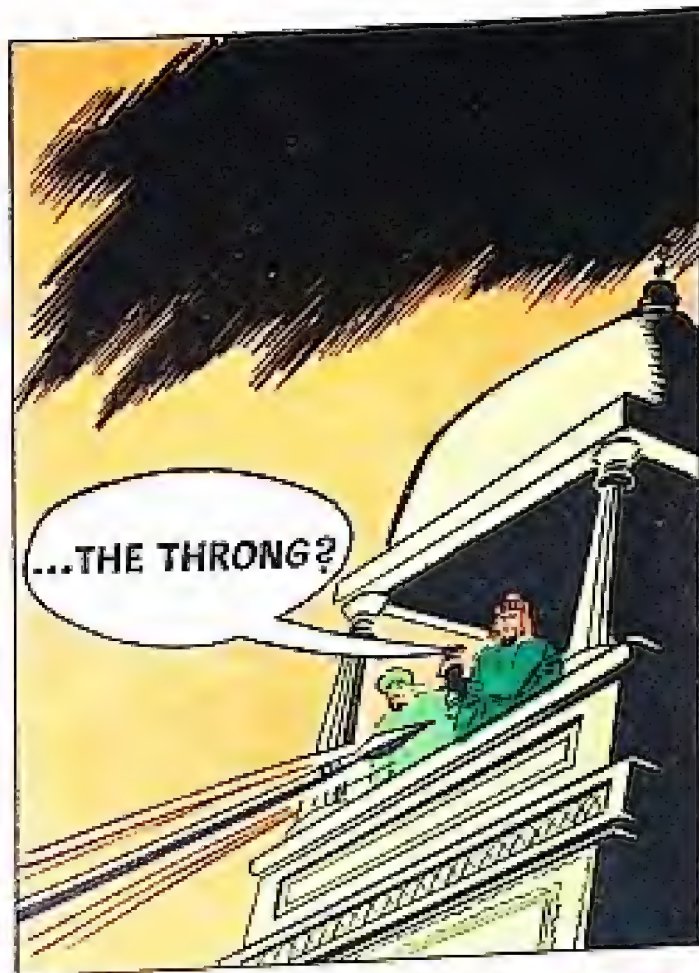
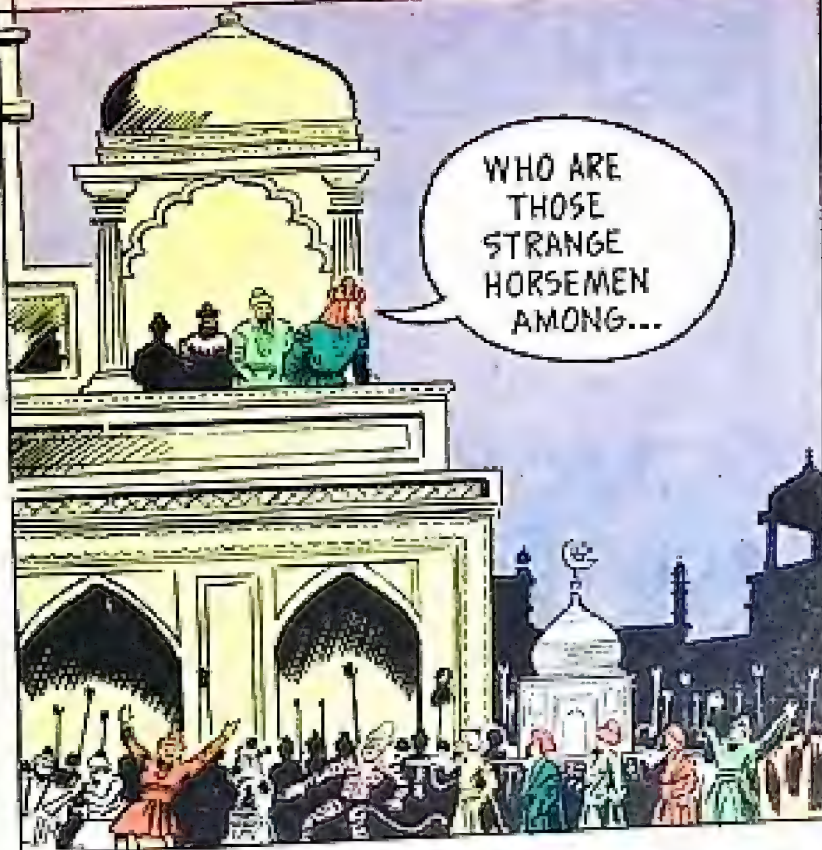
THEY LEFT THE CAVALCADE AND JOINED THE PROCESSION.

WE WILL SOON PASS UNDER  
THE BALCONY OF THE ROOM IN  
WHICH THEIR CHIEF IS DRESSING.  
BE ALERT.





AS THE PROCESSION PROCEEDED, THE CHIEF  
CAME OUT ON THE BALCONY.



PRITHVIRAJ'S LANCE STRUCK HIM DOWN.



BEFORE HE COULD RAISE HIMSELF, AN  
ARROW FROM TARABAI'S BOW...





... SENT HIM STAGGERING TO HIS DEATH.



WHILE THE PANIC-STRICKEN CROWDS WERE YET RECOVERING FROM THE SHOCK...



...THE THREE TURNED TO JOIN THEIR TROOPS.

CATCH THEM!

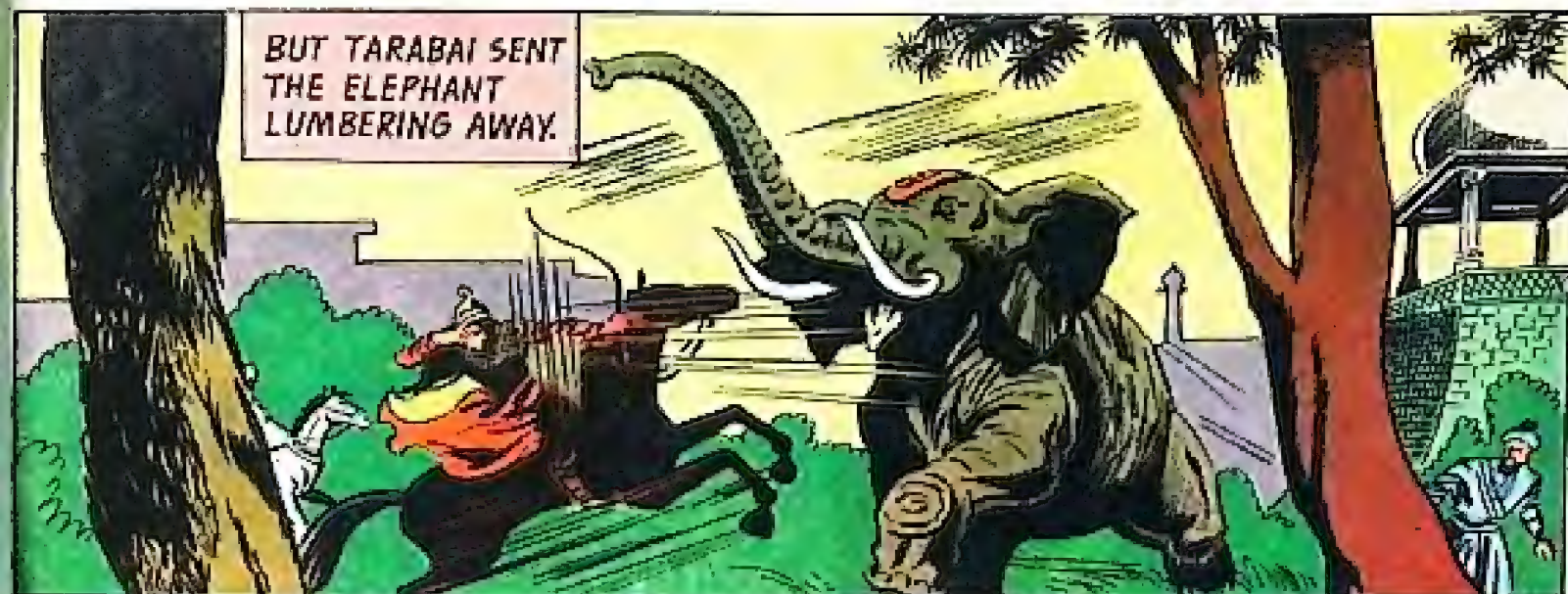
THE INFIDELS!

THEY ARE THE MURDERERS!





BUT TARABAI SENT  
THE ELEPHANT  
LUMBERING AWAY.



AS SOON AS THEY WERE IN THE  
MIDST OF THEIR TROOPS—

ATTACK!



THE AFGHANS FLED.

CUT THE INVADING  
CURS TO BITS!

DON'T LET THEM  
ESCAPE!





WHEN THE AFGHANS WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO RAI SURTAN.

THODA IS FREE AND AWAITS THE RETURN OF ITS PRINCE -PRITHVIRAJ AND TARABAI.

GET READY TO RIDE TO THODA.

OUTSIDE THODA, TARABAI AND PRITHVIRAJ WERE WAITING TO RECEIVE HIM.

MY DAUGHTER! MY SON! THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY IN MY LIFE.

TARABAI AND PRITHVIRAJ LED HIM INTO A JUBILANT CITY.

OUR BELOVED PRINCE AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE WITH US AGAIN.

IT IS A HAPPY DAY FOR THODA!







SO THEY STAYED  
ON AT THODA,  
HAPPY IN EACH  
OTHER'S COMPANY.  
-TO THE GREAT  
SATISFACTION OF  
RAI SURTAN.



BUT AFTER A FEW MONTHS-

I AM RESTLESS, DEAR  
HUSBAND. I LONG FOR  
FRESH SIGHTS AND NEW  
ADVENTURES.

LET US GO  
TO MEWAR.



MEANWHILE  
AT MEWAR-

IF YOU HELP ME  
OVERTHROW THE  
RANA, I SHALL GIVE  
YOU A PORTION OF  
MEWAR AS YOUR  
REWARD.

YOUR OFFER  
IS WORTH MY  
FULL SUPPORT.



THE TRAITORS ROSE AGAINST RANA  
RAIMAL, PRITHVIRAJ'S FATHER.





THE RANA, TAKEN BY SURPRISE, MUSTERED  
WHAT TROOPS HE COULD AND GAVE BATTLE.




BUT THE RANA'S TROOPS WERE A MERE  
HANDFUL COMPARED TO THE HORDES  
OF THE TRAITORS.



THE RANA WAS ABOUT TO RETREAT WHEN-



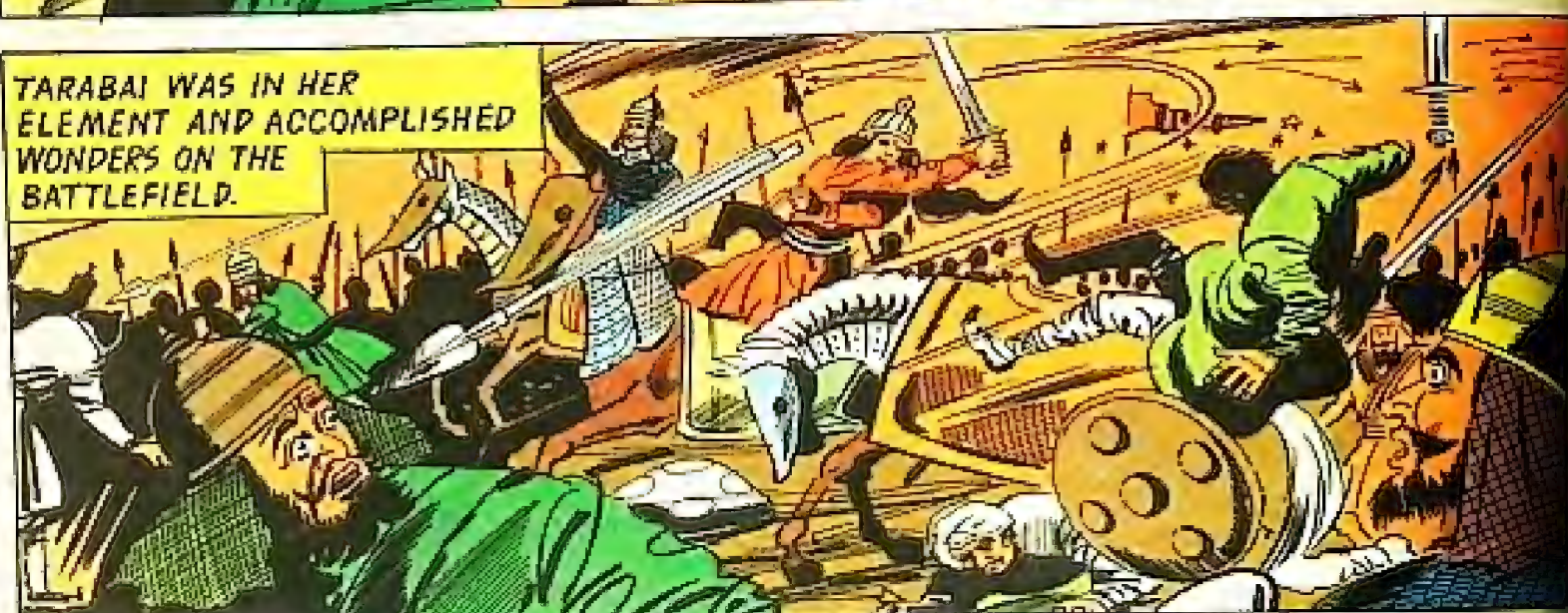





IT'S PRITHVIRAJ  
AND HIS WARRIOR  
BRIDE, TARABAI.

WE ARE  
SAVED.

THEY HAVE  
OVER A  
THOUSAND FRESH  
CAVALRY!



TARABAI WAS IN HER  
ELEMENT AND ACCOMPLISHED  
WONDERS ON THE  
BATTLEFIELD.



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT  
WAS THE ARM OF A  
WOMAN THAT SENT  
ME REELING!



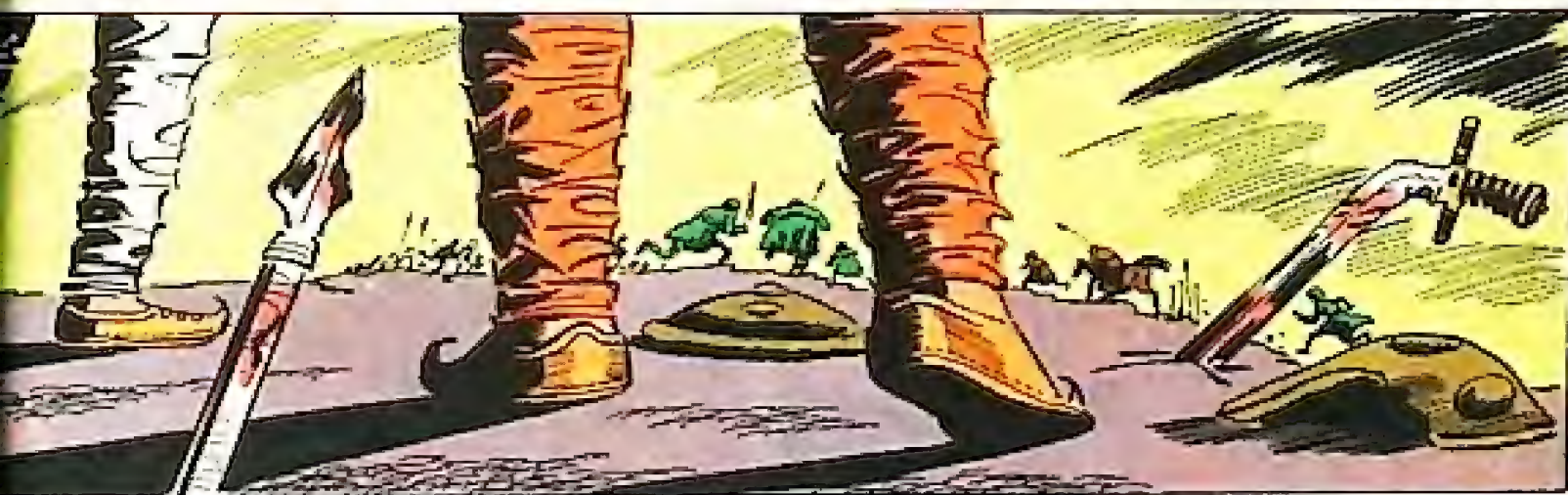
ALL WHO WATCHED HER IN  
ACTION, MARVELLED.

HER PIERCING  
DARK EYES  
ARE AS FATAL AS  
HER ARROWS.

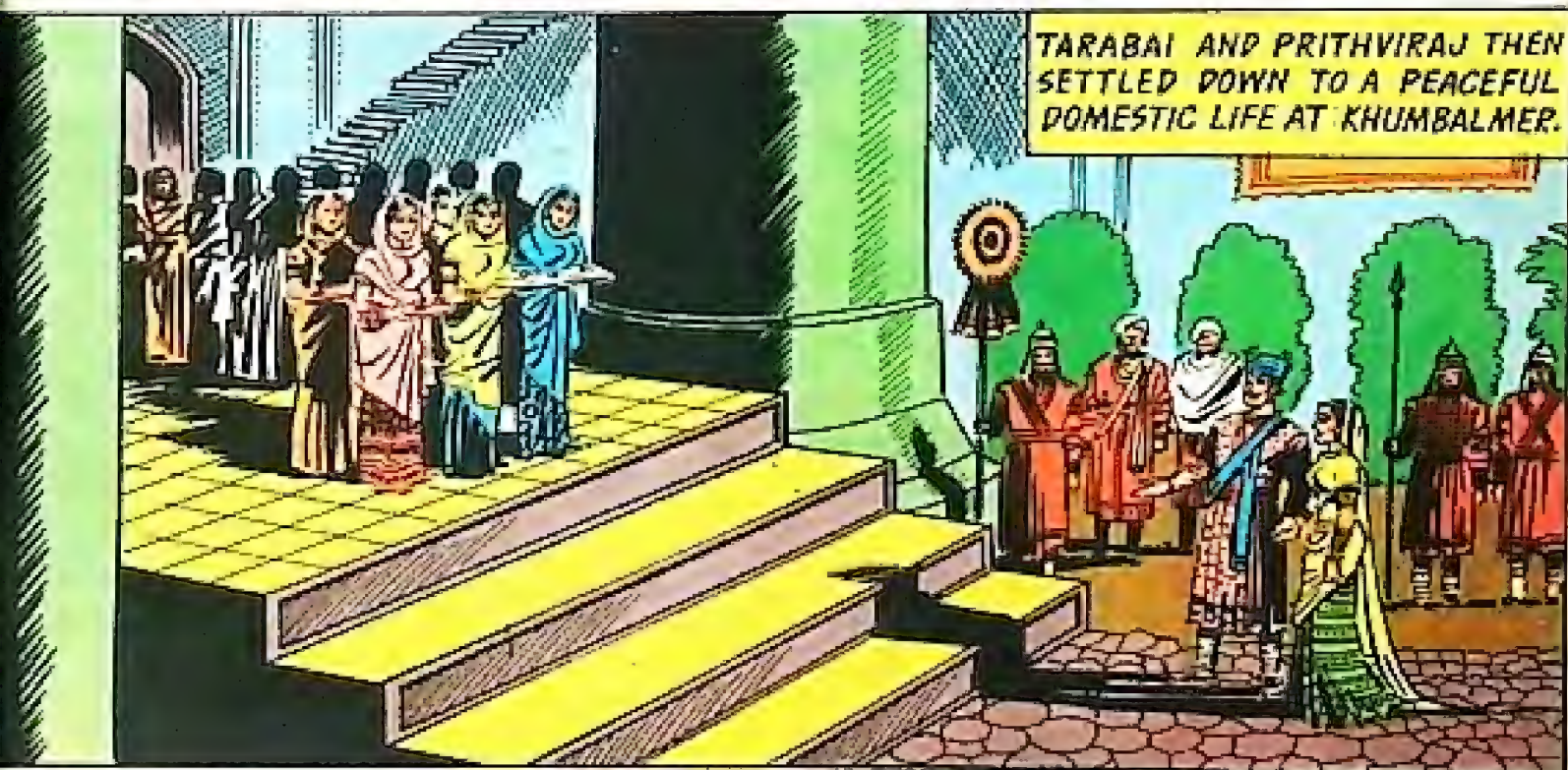


THE TRAITORS WERE SOON  
OVERCOME.

LET US FLEE WHILE  
WE ARE YET ALIVE.



TARABAI AND PRITHVIRAJ THEN  
SETTLED DOWN TO A PEACEFUL  
DOMESTIC LIFE AT KHUMBALMER.





ONE DAY—

A LETTER FROM MY  
SISTER. THE ONE WHO  
MARRIED THE SIROHI  
PRINCE, PABHOO RAO.

WHAT DOES  
IT SAY?

SHE COMPLAINS OF  
ILLTREATMENT, AT THE  
HANDS OF THE PRINCE—  
AN OPIUM AD-  
DICT. SHE BEGS  
TO BE TAKEN  
BACK HOME.

TARABAI WAS ENRAGED AND HORRIFIED.

LET US GO IMMEDI-  
ATELY TO SIROHI,  
PUNISH THE  
PRINCE AND BRING  
HER BACK.

PUNISH THE PRINCE  
AND BRING HER  
BACK WE MUST.  
BUT...

... ON THIS  
EXPEDITION I'D  
RATHER GO ALONE.

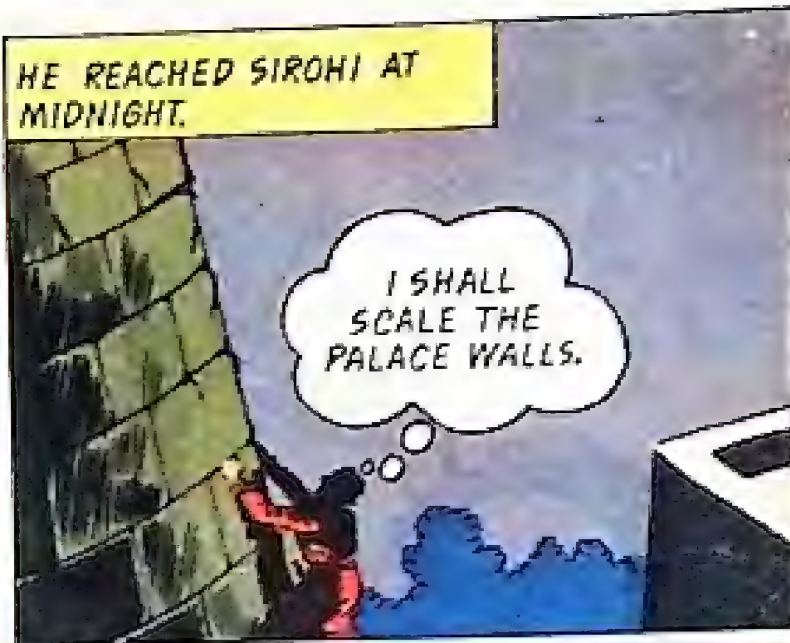
I DO NOT LIKE TO SEND  
YOU ALONE. LET ME  
ACCOMPANY YOU.



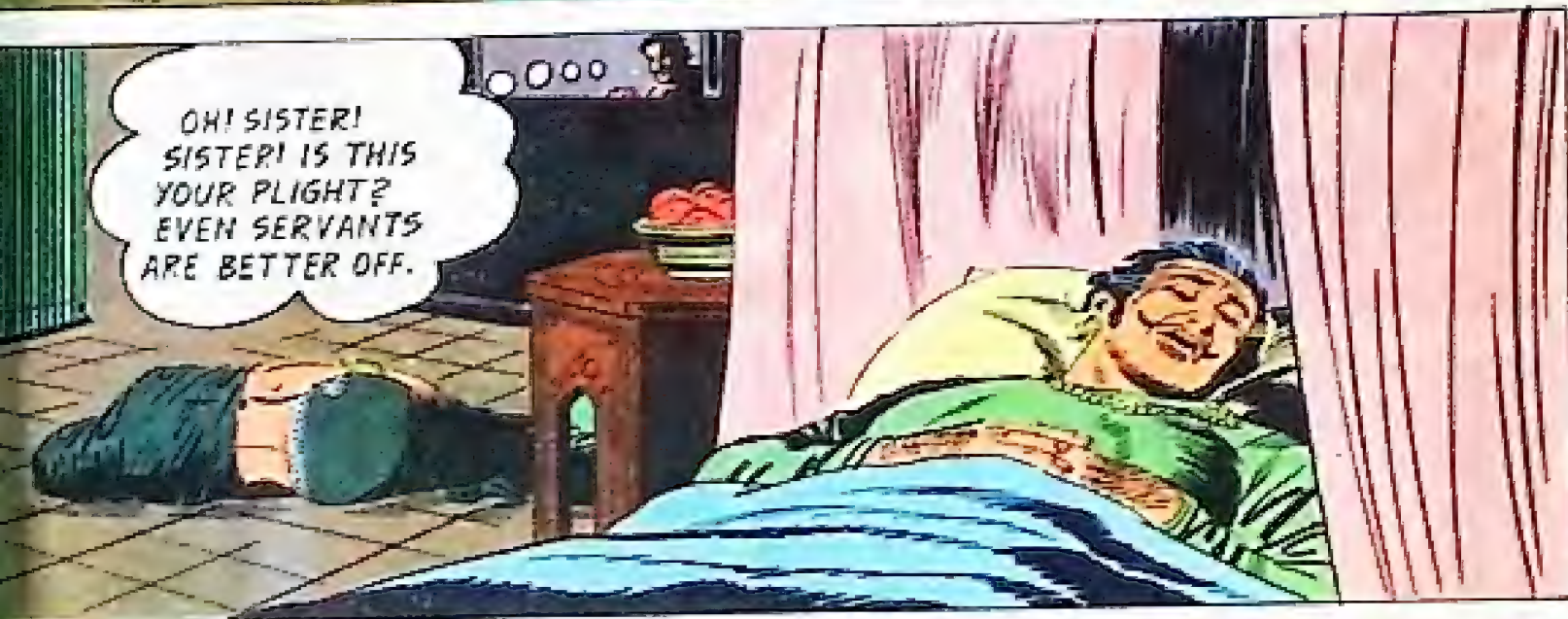
BUT PRITHVIRAJ WAS ADAMANT  
AND SET OUT ALL ALONE.



HE REACHED SIROHI AT  
MIDNIGHT.



OH! SISTER!  
SISTER! IS THIS  
YOUR PLIGHT?  
EVEN SERVANTS  
ARE BETTER OFF.



THE SIGHT ENRAGED PRITHVIRAJ  
BEYOND CONTROL.

YOU SHALL DIE  
PABHOO RAO, YOU  
SCOUNDREL!


UH? WHO  
ARE YOU...?













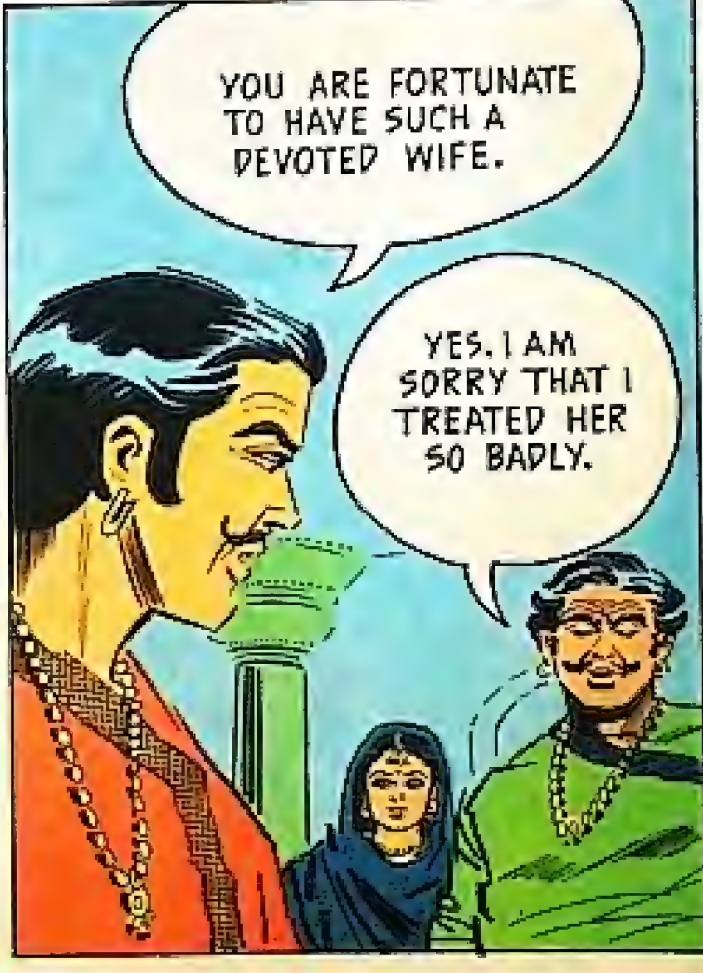
...AND PLACE  
THEM ON YOUR  
HEAD.



GOOD! NOW  
TOUCH HER  
FEET.



YOU WILL PAY  
FOR THIS WITH  
YOUR LIFE,  
PRITHVIRAJ.



YOU ARE FORTUNATE  
TO HAVE SUCH A  
DEVOTED WIFE.

YES. I AM  
SORRY THAT I  
TREATED HER  
SO BADLY.



BUT PABHOO RAO'S REPENTANCE WAS NOT GENUINE. HE SEETHED INWARDLY.

PRITHVIRAJ IS FOND OF SWEETS. A FEW POISONED SWEETS WILL DO THE TRICK.

A FEW DAYS LATER PRITHVIRAJ TOOK LEAVE OF HIS SISTER AND HER HUSBAND.

TARABAI WILL BE ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR ME. IT'S TIME I RETURNED HOME.

PABHOO PRODUCED A SMALL PACKET.

HERE ARE SOME SWEETS FOR YOU TO EAT ON THE WAY.



PRITHVIRAJ WAS OVERWHELMED BY  
PABHOO'S GENEROSITY.

I MUST THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR HOSPITALITY, PABHOO.  
TARABAI WILL BE PLEASED  
TO LEARN OF THE OUTCOME  
OF MY VISIT. MAY YOU AND  
MY SISTER LIVE HAPPILY  
HENCEFORTH.



AND PRITHVIRAJ RODE OFF.

HOW WE MISJUDGED PABHOO.  
HE IS A GOOD MAN AND  
HAS TRULY REPENTED OF  
HIS PAST BEHAVIOUR.





AS HE NEARED  
KHUMBALMER, HE  
SUDDENLY FELT  
HUNGRY.

I'LL EAT A FEW  
OF THE SWEETS AND  
TAKE THE REST TO  
TARABAI.



AND THE UNSUSPECTING  
PRITHVIRAJ ATE A FEW  
PIECES.



AS HE REACHED THE SHRINE  
OUTSIDE THE PALACE—

I FEEL ODD.  
MY EYELIDS REFUSE  
TO REMAIN OPEN.



I CAN HARDLY  
SIT STRAIGHT  
ON MY HORSE.





THEN PRITHVIRAJ UNDERSTOOD.

I HAVE BEEN POISONED.  
THE TREACHEROUS PABHOO.  
TARABAI! TARABAI! I MUST  
REACH TARABAI.



BEFORE HE COULD DRAG  
HIMSELF ANY FURTHER, HE WAS  
DEAD!



A FEW PASSERS-BY RAN UP TO HIM.

IT IS OUR  
PRINCE!

HE HAS  
BEEN  
POISONED!

SEND  
WORD TO  
TARABAI.



AS SOON AS TARABAI HEARD  
THE NEWS, SHE RAN OUT TO  
WHERE HER HUSBAND LAY.





HER LOVE FOR THE MAN WHO HAD WON HER HOMELAND BACK FOR HER, GUSHED FORTH AND ALMOST BROKE HER HEART.

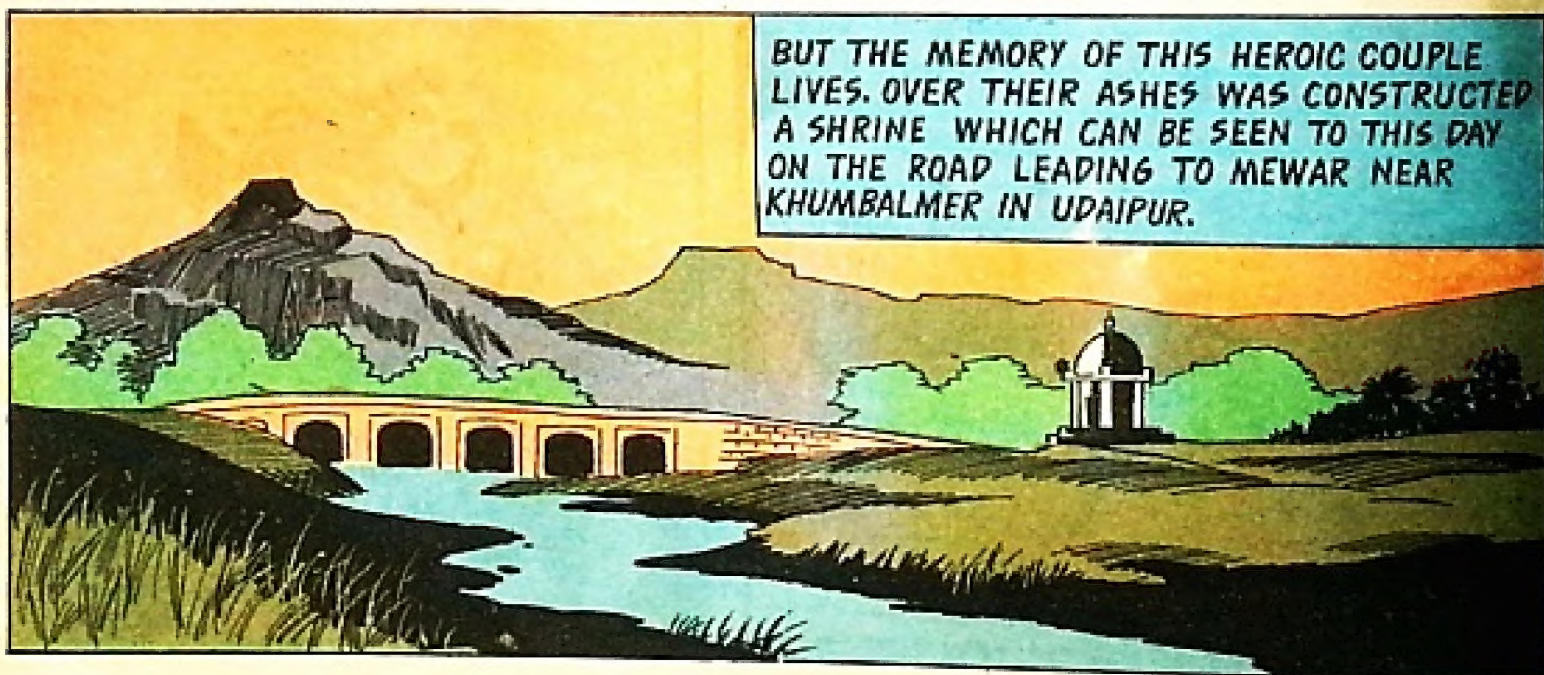
MY HUSBAND!  
OH MY DEAR  
HUSBAND!



AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS, TARABAI JOINED HER HUSBAND ON THE FUNERAL PYRE.



BUT THE MEMORY OF THIS HEROIC COUPLE LIVES. OVER THEIR ASHES WAS CONSTRUCTED A SHRINE WHICH CAN BE SEEN TO THIS DAY ON THE ROAD LEADING TO MEWAR NEAR KHUMBALMER IN UDAIPUR.







# AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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- 105 DASHARATHA
- 106 RANA SANGA
- 107 PRADYUMNA
- 108 VIDYASAGAR
- 109 TACHCHOLI OTHENAN
- 110 SULTANA RAZIA

**Acquaint your  
children with their  
cultural heritage**

- 111 SATI & SHIVA
- 112 KRISHNA & RUKMINI
- 113 RAJA BHOJA
- 114 GURU TEGH BAHADUR
- 115 PAREEKSHIT
- 116 KADAMBARI
- 117 DHRIYA & ASHTAVAKRA
- 118 KING KUSHA
- 119 RAJA RAJA CHOLA
- 120 DAYANANDA
- 121 VEER DHAYAL
- 122 ANCESTORS OF RAMA
- 123 EKANATHI
- 124 SATWANT KAUR
- 125 UDAYANA
- 126 JATAKA TALES III
- 127 THE GITA
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- 131 BIRBAL THE WISE
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- 143 A BAG OF GOLD COINS
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